



City of New Bedford
Scott W. Lang, Mayor

City of New Bedford
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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Update on 11 Nye Street Property

New Bedford, Massachusetts-On Sunday, November 25, 2007 at approximately 5:30am a couple was stabbed multiple times in a third floor apartment at 11 Nye Street in New Bedford. Over the past year, New Bedford Police have responded on dozens of occasions to address a variety of disturbances at this particular property. On Monday, November 26, 2007 Department of Inspectional Services personnel visited 11 Nye Street to assess the living conditions at the 12-unit residence. Inspectors discovered multiple health and building code violations including evidence of rodents and cockroaches, plumbing and electrical violations. After conducting an assessment of the property, the Commissioner of Inspectional Services, Ronald A. Durgin, told the occupants of 11 Nye Street that the living conditions there were not suitable and strongly encouraged them to find other accommodations by Friday, November 30, 2007.

The Department of Inspectional Services hand delivered correction orders to owner's representative Michael Abbott of the New England Group on Tuesday, November 27, 2007, and also sent a certified and first class mailing on that same day to the owner of the premises, Bayview Loan Servicing LLC, of Coral Gables, Florida to take immediate steps to remedy the long list of violations. On Monday, December 3, 2007 Code Enforcement inspector, Renee Stevens, will file a complaint in Housing Court to require the owner to remedy all of the violations which she observed. This will begin court proceedings against the owner, which are intended to compel the owner to remedy all outstanding violations or face fines for its failure to do so.

Today, Board of Health Director, Marianne DeSousa, accompanied by Barry Sylvia, Sanitarian, visited 11 Nye Street to again assess the situation at the site to determine the current condition of the premises and whether there were any additional violations which needed immediate attention. Upon conducting a through inspection and after consulting with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Director DeSousa confirmed many of the conditions that had been previously reported. She relayed her findings to Mayor Scott W. Lang and members of the New Bedford Board of Health.

Mid-afternoon on Friday, the Mayor convened a meeting of the affected tenants, City Solicitor Irene Schall, Police Chief Ronald Teachman, and Nora Andino of the Department of Community Services. During this meeting a call was placed by the Mayor to the bank's representative, who was told by the Mayor that the bank needed to take responsibility for these tenants and provide them with the means to relocate to more suitable housing. After some discussion and an additional phone call, Mr. Abbott agreed on behalf of the landlord, to pay each of the tenants relocation fees once they have vacated the premises. These funds are to be sent by overnight mail to the City of New Bedford and will be disbursed to the tenants through the Department of Community Services upon verification that the unit has been vacated, possibly as early as Monday, December 3rd, 2007.

Once the premises are determined to be free of all occupants, Commissioner Durgin has said that the City will disconnect all utilities to the building and will secure the property. The costs for these actions will be charged as a lien against the property, as security for the owner's payment to the City.

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